

SITUATION REPORT NO. 19
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: June 8, 1999 TIME: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: A Steele resident received minor injuries when the Cenex office trailer where he was working was overturned during a June 3 tornado.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) has determined that the city of Mountain in Pembina County and the surrounding area was struck on June 6 by an F4 tornado with wind speeds of up to 211 miles per hour (mph). Tornadoes are ranked in six categories, F1, where wind speeds are up to 72 mph, through F6, the most severe with wind speeds of up to 379 mph. During an F4 tornado, wind gusts range from 206 to 270 mph, well-constructed houses can be leveled, and structures can be moved off their foundations. Buildings that were destroyed or damaged during the June 6 storm in Mountain, ND, included a farmstead that officials thought had been unoccupied but later determined was occupied by an elderly couple who has relocated to Grafton. Their farm home, 10 grain bins and farm machinery were destroyed. Debris from the farmstead, located one mile southeast of Mountain, has been found in nearby fields and within the city of Mountain. Sightseer traffic and a heavy downpour of rain that occurred hours after the storm have been interfering with cleanup efforts in Mountain. Public safety officials also expressed concern about storm chasers who jeopardized their safety, as well as the safety of others.

Eleven homes were evacuated, and 115 homes were impacted by flood waters during a June 6 storm in the Garrison area of McLean County. Flood waters displaced at least three families. Rainfall measures ranged from 4.5 to 6.5 inches. Water levels in homes ranged from three to eight feet. While most flooding occurred in basements, some homes had water on the main floor. Two foundations caved in during the weekend, and a lift station in a mobile home court has failed. Utility companies shut off power to 91 homes where water was above valves. County roads were either inundated or washed out by flood waters.

In Kidder County, 16 homeowners reported damages to their homes, vehicles or

garages as a result of a tornado in the city of Steele on June 6. Most damage was caused by uprooted trees and debris. One mobile home, the Kidder County Shop, and six metal buildings and sheds were destroyed. All Steele residents were without power for at least 11 hours and some, whose power lines had been pulled out of walls, did not have service for 26 hours. Generator problems plagued a local nursing home. Water supplies were limited because of problems with an electrical breaker. The local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) board recorded \$500,000 in damages to farmsteads and service buildings and \$350,000 in equipment and machinery damage. At least 30,000 acres of farmland were impacted when the tornado traveled a narrow path from the southwest to the northeast corner of the county.

The June 6 storms caused roof damage to one home located 15 miles north of Fort Yates. Tribal officials are conducting an assessment of damages.

Rainfall ranging from five to 10 inches in Bottineau County has caused substantial setbacks in planting crops, local USDA board officials have reported. Very few crops have been planted, and some hayland and pasture land is inundated.

Heavy rainfall from recent severe storms continues to aggravate flood-related problems in Rolette County. Rainfall amounts during May ranged from 9.34 inches to 20 inches throughout the county. The county received approximately 1.5 inches of rain during a severe storm on June 3-4 and one inch of rain on June 6. The additional rainfall has resulted in the inundation of roads, as well as a cemetery that has up to three inches of water covering low-lying areas. Creeks and coulees are flowing at capacity. The June 3-4 storm resulted in the destruction of two farm buildings, and trees were uprooted during the June 6 storm.

The local USDA board in Foster County reported that pea- to golfball-size hail struck the area during heavy rainfall on June 3, impacting 157,371 acres of farm land. Percent of yield losses range from 12 percent for wheat, barley and oats to 20 percent for sunflower and flax to 25 percent for canola. Agriculture officials have determined that 150 service buildings and farmsteads, one silo and five pieces of machinery were damaged during the storm. Erosion and gullyng occurred on 35,000 acres of land.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross, Lutheran Disaster Response and the Salvation Army have been providing assistance to storm victims. Both the Red Cross and the Salvation Army assisted in establishing a temporary shelter in Garrison for flood victims. Lutheran Disaster Response has provided the city with five transfer pumps, approximately 15 power washers and 19 wet carpet vacuums. The Red Cross also relocated three families to a local hotel and provided sump pumps and cleanup kits to residents. The Red Cross also has been helping nine city of Mountain families with lodging, clothing and cleanup of their homes that were damaged during the June 6 storm.

Approximately 25 Skywarn spotters in the Walsh County area provided assistance

during the June 6 storm. They provided information to the Walsh County Communications Center for release to media and impacted communities. Five tornadoes were spotted in the Lankin, Adams and Edinburg areas.

The Kidder County Food Pantry assisted Steele residents impacted by the June 3 tornado.

Residents and their relatives of storm victims in the cities of Mountain and Steele are assisting their neighbors to remove trees and to cleanup debris.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Governor received word today that a major presidential declaration has been approved for North Dakota for severe storm, flooding, snow and ice, ground saturation, landslides, mudslides, and tornadoes. The incident period for FEMA-1279-DR-ND is March 1 and continuing. The declaration includes federal programs for Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Counties named are Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McLean, Mountrail, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, and Wells plus the Indian Reservations of the Devils Lake Sioux, Fort Berthold, and Turtle Mountain.

The Tribal Chairman for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Sioux County Commission and officials for the cities of Garrison and Steele issued disaster declarations for storm damages. The mayor of Mountain in Pembina County signed an emergency declaration because of damages suffered during the severe summer storm on June 6. The Pembina County Commission has upgraded its flood emergency declaration to a disaster declaration. A total of 36 counties, 26 cities and four Indian reservations have issued flood or storm emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), American Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) staff and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director